

I hate you.

There. I've said it.

And that being said, I need..

..your help.



When I said 'need', I chewed off a small piece of my lip.

When I said 'help', I vomited. Consuming it calmed me.

Look. Press this and we will be done with it.

My name is Schenevus.

This was my given name, bestowed on me when my forebears excreted me into a bowl of pitch.

I prefer my nickname: Fudge. An earthly delight.



When you Create An Avatar, you see this screen.

For now, manipulate the document until you have matched what you see here. This is the way I like things to be. It is far too early to tax your puerile mind with an explanation of these matters.

You have created me.

I would thank you were that not certain to
flood my eye sockets with effluent.

I would dismiss you now if only I could.



Start a New Single Player Game and choose the foes
whose sinew I will consume on the night that I join
the Infernal Conclave at last.

The Infernal Pit is created.

It is the arena in which Avatars like myself prove their worth to the Conclave.

How I wish I could do this without you!



Destroy this document so that we may peruse the dessicated lands that shall soon be watered with the fluids of my enemies.

Your land may not look exactly like mine.

I make this observation aloud on the assumption that you are a fool.

Each figure represents a Legion.



A red Legion is mine.

Most Avatars can control at most 3 Legions. They can not combine with others. Legions are rare, yet are what constitute physical forces.

Press the red Legion to take a closer view.

If you have a pincer, claw, or convenient horn, pressing the documents will be a simple matter.

Those with tentacles may wish to enlist a minion.



Into this square you shall eventually place a Combat Card, Artifact, Relic, or Praetor that will make this Legion stronger.

Each Legion has 3 basic attributes.

These attributes are used to determine a Legion's ability to fight against other Legions or Places of Power.

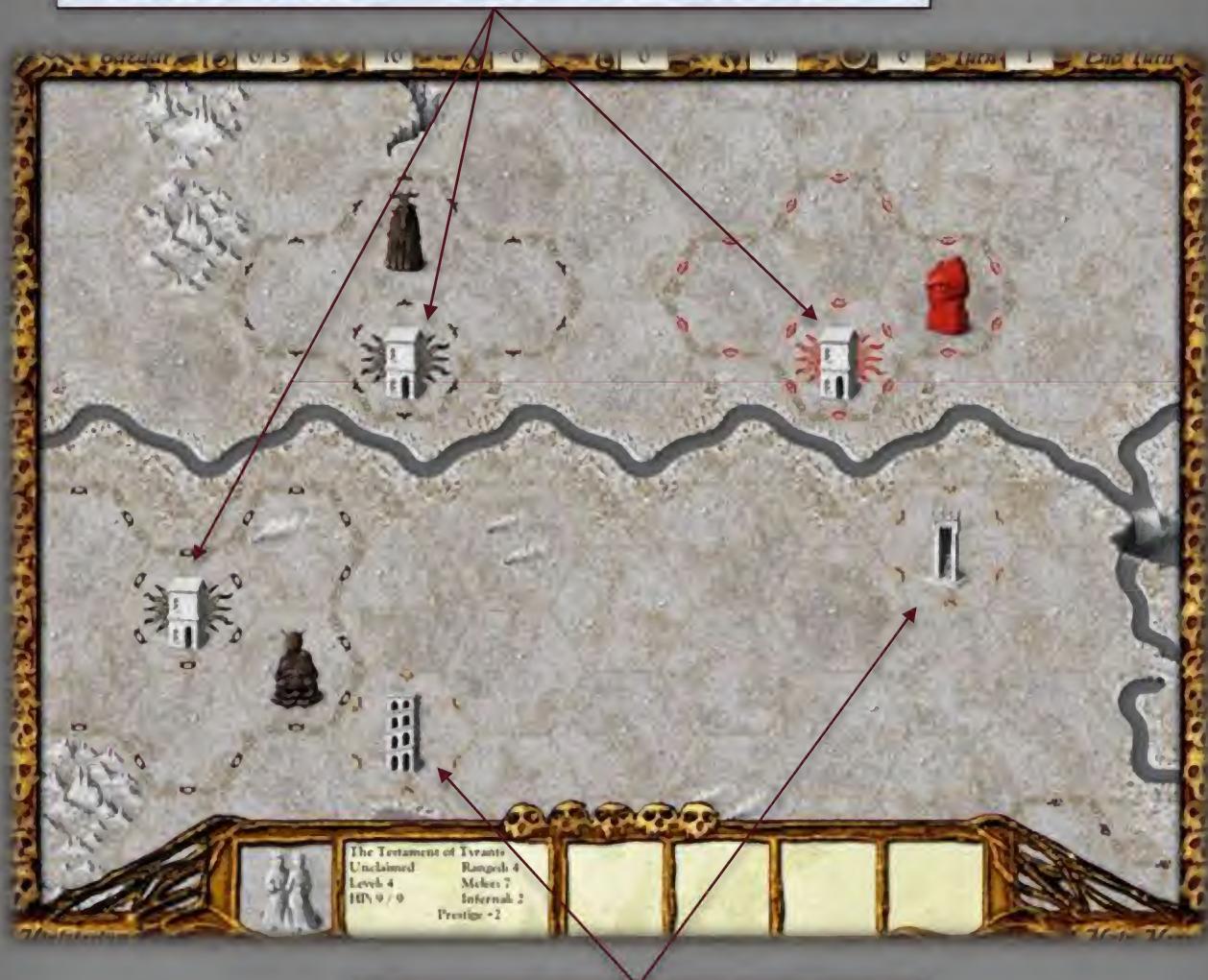


A Legion's attributes are capriciously determined. Perhaps your brain will not bubble from your ear holes were I simply to say that higher numbers are better.

The numbers, in order, are 0, then 1, then 2. And so on. Perhaps you have learned them.

My jesting has caused my third stomach to eject a small puddle of ichor. I shall lap it up while you navigate to the map.

These structures are Strongholds. Lose mine, and you forfeit my right to exist.

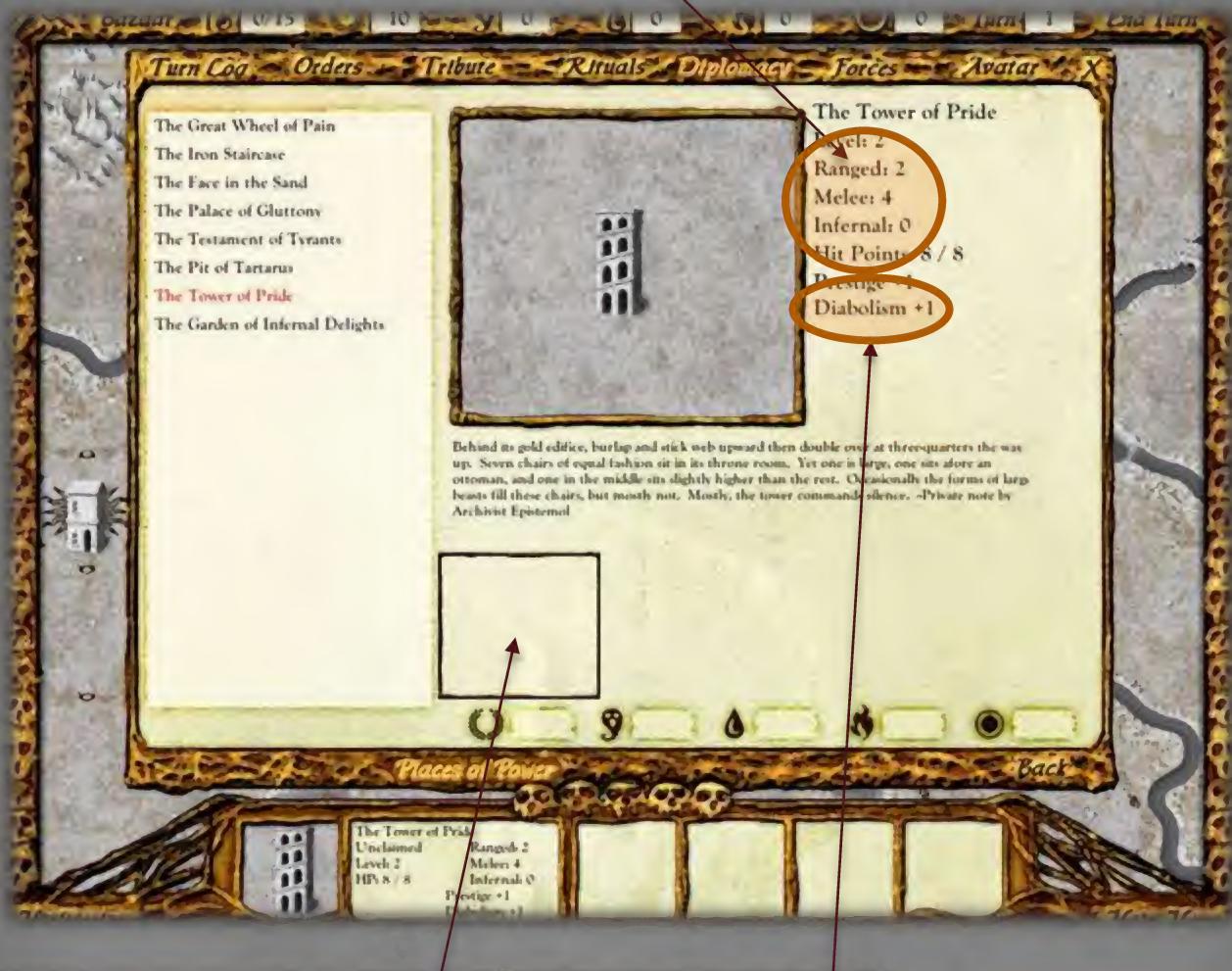


These are Places of Power.

Each turn, every Place of Power that I own will contribute Prestige, the measure of my prowess.

View one of the Places of Power on the map.

Note that a Place of Power possesses 3 attributes just as a Legion does. This is a measure of how difficult it will be for a Legion to conquer its garrison.



A Place of Power may have its strength augmented in the same way a Legion may.

It may also offer a bonus that increases one of my personal attributes.

Bring the Turn Log document to the foreground.

Here we see a listing of important events.
Press this rune to view our tribute.

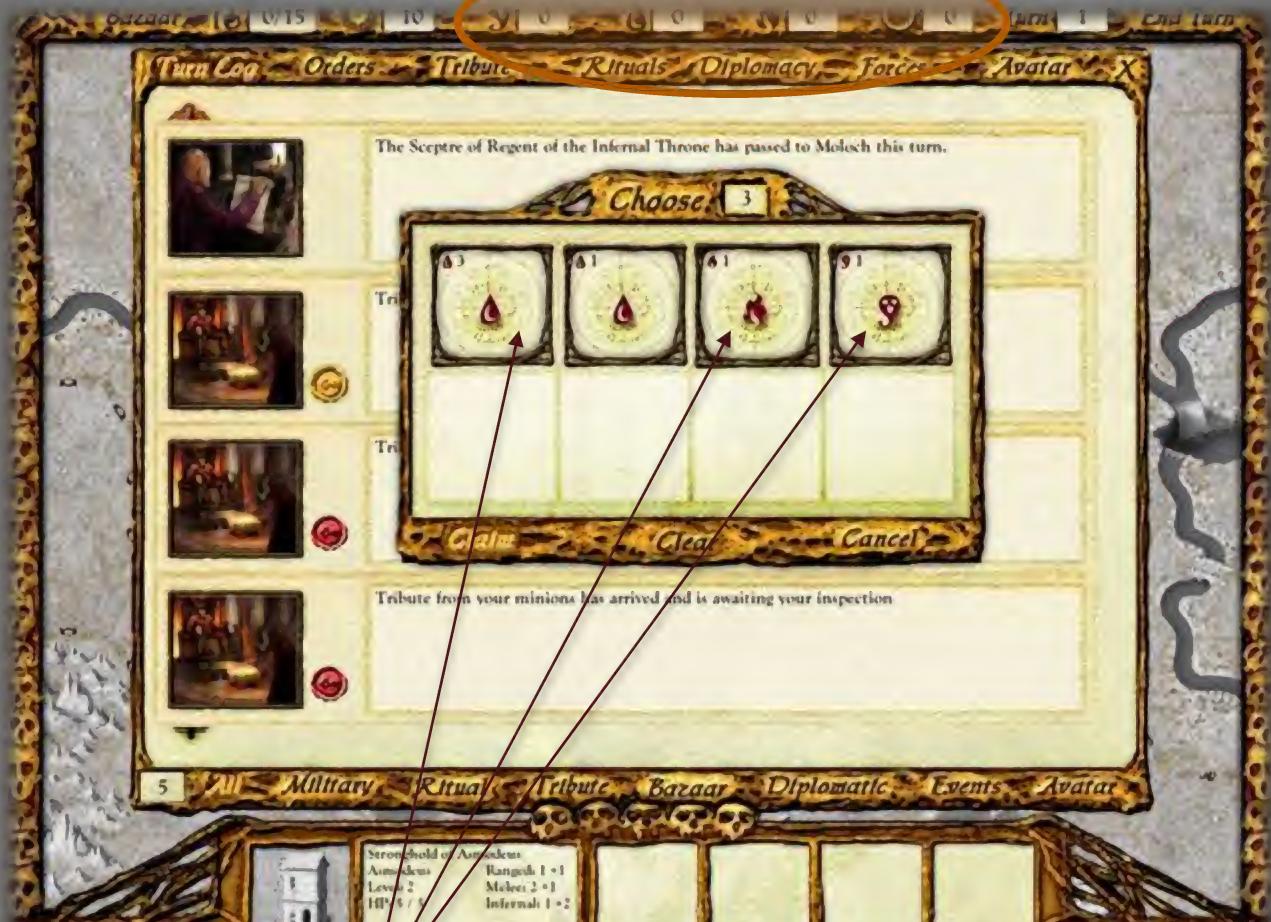


We offer tribute to win the right to recruit new Legions and Praetors, and the right to use Artifacts, Relics and Manuscripts.

Your struggle to understand
summons oils from my pudenda.

There are 4 forms of tribute.

My supply of the 4 forms of tribute appears here on the documents.



Claim 3 of the tribute cards.

Might I again suggest that higher numbers are better.
Seek help, perhaps, from those who spawned you.

I shall lather myself in my oils while you simper.

I assume you collected tribute from all of the minions.

If not, I shall add to the pool of humours puddling at my orifices.

Now I shall show you a typical turn.



Display the Orders document.
Note that we may only give 2
orders this turn.

This is not unusual.

When I am more powerful,
this must change.

If you press a rune beside either of the first two Orders slots, you will see a list from which you may choose.

We will see the list on the following page.



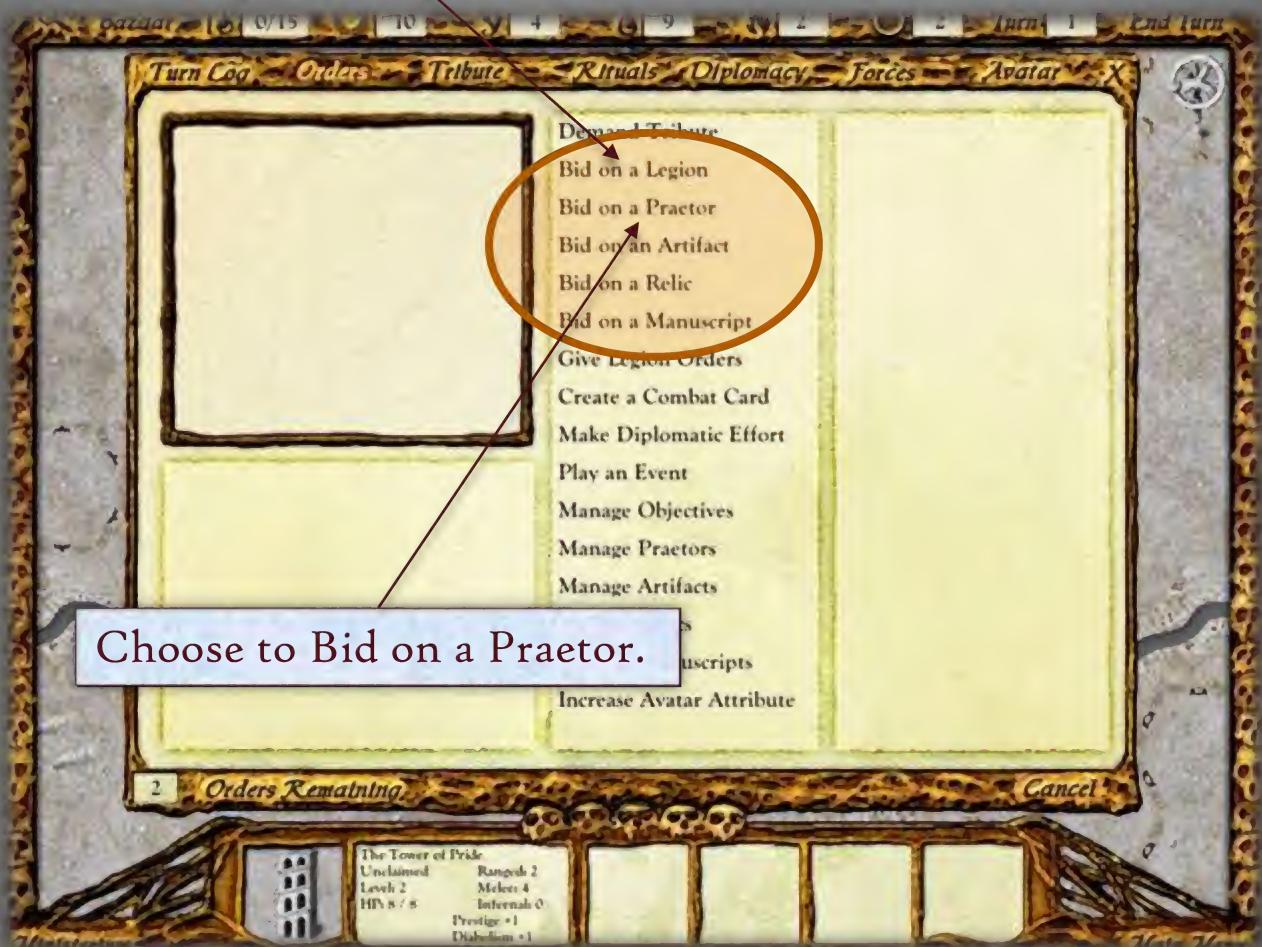
All Avatars submit their requests to the Conclave, which process the requests in order of Phase.

This bureaucratic horror makes my livers seethe.

You will use these orders to increase the strength of my forces.

Bidding occurs at the Bazaar.

While viewing the map, it is possible go straight to the Bazaar by pushing 'B'.



A Praetor is a leader who may be attached to any Legion or Place of Power that you control.

She or it or they or he will augment the power of whatever unit they are attached to.

While you browse the selection of Praetors,
I will roll on my back to freshen my teats.

There are always a limited number of items on which to bid. They are replaced with a new item as they are claimed.



If attached to a Legion or Place of Power, this Praetor increases the Ranged attribute by 3.

These figures represent the strength of the Praetor in single combat against another.

The thought of you groping to understand 'single combat' at this point is jiggling my reproductive sacs against my mat.

Compare your current resources here..



..with the cost of this Praetor here.

By 'compare', I refer to the act of pairing the corresponding numbers and judging whether..

Oh, never mind.

Rather than bid on a Praetor, return to the Orders document. Press Demand Tribute.

Choose to Demand Resources.



This very common order will acquire more tribute.

There is no need to recruit 'minions' to do this.
One always has minions.

Observe that you have merely demanded tribute. This demand is one of your orders.

We may give one more order.



I performed this mental calculation using a method called 'subtraction'.

You may know it as 'minusing'.

Or you may not know it at all.

In either case, my tears of mirth track through my nasal vents to form a foamy broth that I will enjoy while you return to the map.



In the Infernal Pit, each hex is called a Canton.

These 4 Cantons belong to me.

No Avatar may attack another, not even to claim an enemy Canton, without first becoming hostile.

Thus, it is wise to acquire unclaimed territory.

Choose the red Legion.

Select March Legion
and an open Phase.



This Legion may move 2 hexes, and legal moves are highlighted.

Choose the hexes into which you wish your Legion to move. Aim for Places of Power, or aim to isolate your enemies from them.

Because we have issued two orders, we are finished. Press here.

The orders are forwarded by messenger to the Conclave.

Do not expect to see your messenger again.



Note that our enemies are also submitting orders to the Conclave.

Imagining their efforts, I have gleefully fouled my mat.

All manner of hilarity ensues.

Here we see that Beelzebub has conquered a Place of Power.

No Christmas card for him!



Belial paid tribute to claim
The Vorpal Blades.

Ha!

I was fortunate enough to wriggle about in a pile
of Lewis Carroll's intestines not one century ago.

Choose Bazaar and Legions.

Here is a Legion that I may bid on, as I have enough tribute.

Note their ability to occupy mountains.



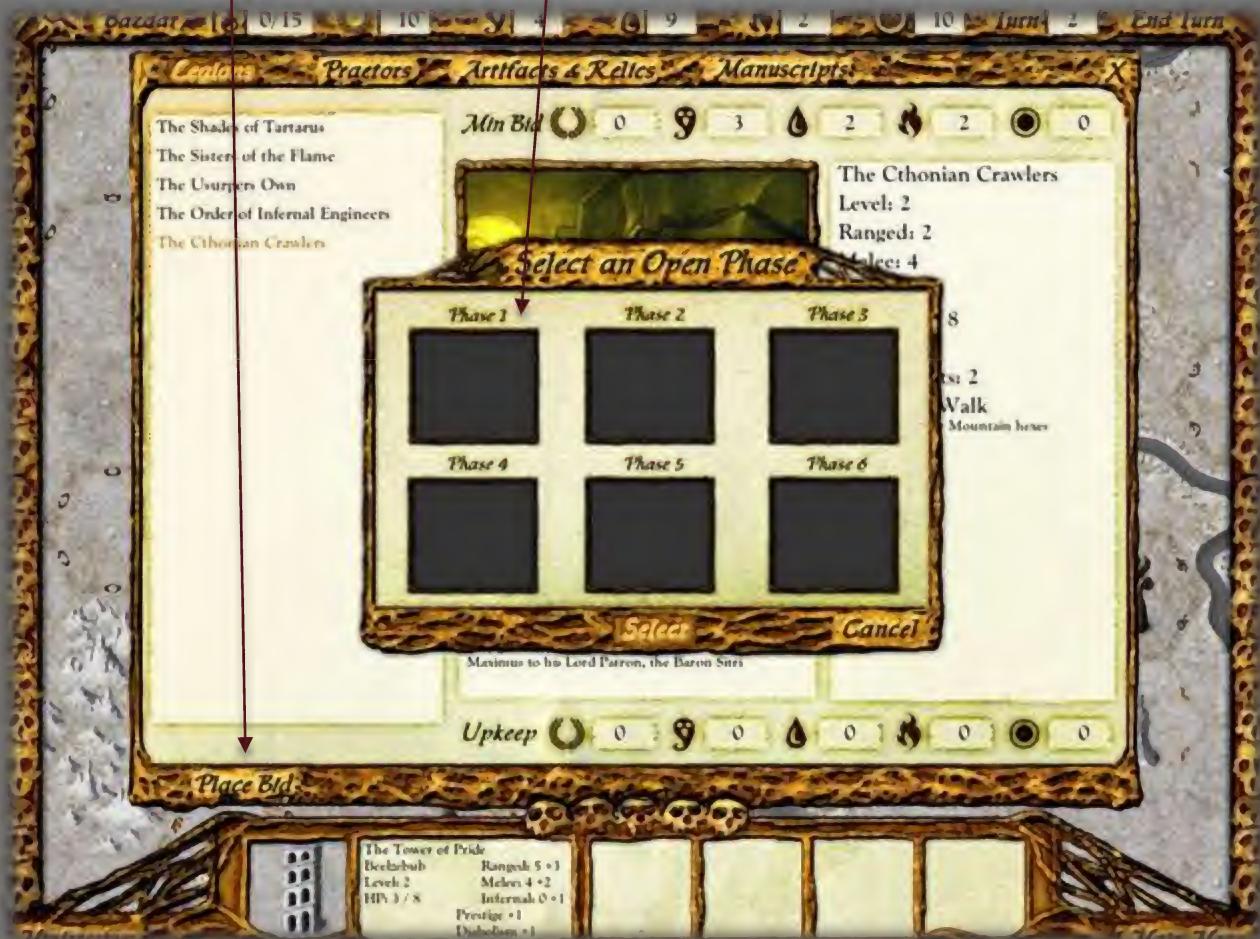
Not many units may move through a mountainous Canton, so this ability may be quite useful.

If you may bid on a Legion, do so.

Choose Place Bid.

If you are concerned that an enemy will bid on your desired Legion, choose Phase 1.

This may help your chances.



If you do not have enough tribute to bid on a Legion, then perhaps you should Demand Tribute for another turn.

You may even Demand Tribute more than once per turn.

If you can afford to bid on a Legion..

Then place tribute cards in the 8 slots..

..until the demands of the Legion are met.



You may devote extra tribute to the cause if success is important to you.

You may also impale yourself on a spear.

Equally amusing.

Call forth the Diplomacy document.

Belial is this turn's Regent.
His Phase 1 order will be
processed first.

The other Phase 1 orders
are processed clockwise.



By 'clockwise' I mean 'in the
manner of a clock's hands'.

Like so:

My appendages curl and uncurl as I picture your vacant stare.

We shall attempt to provoke Moloch.

More than once, he has refused my broths.

While you re-call the orders list, I will pinch my tenderest patches of skin and weep.



No Avatar may attack another until a Diplomatic Effort has been made.

Our hope is that he will respond in such a way that will allow us to enjoy a Vendetta.

There are several ways to provoke an opponent.

We shall hurl an insult at Moloch in front of the entire Conclave.

I shall spice my words with phlegm as I spit my insult in his face.



Next turn, he will learn of our insult. The turn after that, he will respond.

I expect him simply to wet his own chin with spittle.

If he takes umbrage, then he must claim Vendetta.

As you can see, this process takes time.

Further, a Vendetta itself lasts for several turns.

If Moloch refuses to take the bait, he loses Prestige but gains a few turns of peace with me.



I will also do what I can to gain a Praetor, Artifact, or Relic that I can attach to my Legion.

Of course, when I say 'I will do', I mean that you will do these things for me.

Curse you.



This is the Throne that I seek.

When I ascend to it, I will allow you to
swab the liquid from my folds, apply
salve to my teats, and the like.

It is the least I can do.

Which is, of course, all you deserve.

Frequently Shrieked Questions

Q. Will the pain ever stop?

A. No.

Q. Have I learned all that I need to learn?

A. The very thought makes my nasal vents bubble.

Q. What can I do to learn more?

A. Read the documents written by the Author Himself.

Q. Who is 'the Author'?

A. Vic Davis, whose entrails I long to sample.

Q. May I return to Earth to warn my loved ones?

A. Yes.

Q. Really?

A. Have you not seen 'Our Town'? It doesn't work.

Q. Would you mind rolling over so that I can breathe?

A. Be quiet. Be more vigorous with the ointment.



Written by: Dave Perkins

Based on the game
Solium Infernum
by Vic Davis,
published by Cryptic Comet